



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of Governor Bob McDonnell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**First Lady of Virginia to Host Community Roots
Event on April 1st**

Help to Raise Awareness of a Healthy Lifestyle

RICHMOND- The First Lady of Virginia, Maureen McDonnell, is pleased to partner with Leadership Metro Richmond, Home Depot and Backyard Farmer to host the Community Roots Garden Build on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at the Executive Mansion. Community Roots Garden Build seeks to engage children and community members in the creation, maintenance, and harvesting of their own sample garden; to educate children and their parents about nutrition and wellness concepts and practices. Todd Haymore, Virginia's Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, and Marty Kilgore, Executive Director of the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, will also attend to talk with the children planting the garden about Virginia being a leading state for agriculture.

Mrs. McDonnell commented on the event, "I am really looking forward to welcoming children from our community to the mansion. This event will help to raise awareness of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through proper nutrition and exercise, a focus of mine as your First Lady."

Leadership Metro Richmond is a community service program that seeks to advance the Richmond area by educating and connecting a diverse group of local leaders to serve the community. Backyard Farmer offers resources and tools needed to establish and maintain a garden of your own.

The following companies have donated to make this project possible: Scott's is donating the soil, Robbins Family Farm is donating Virginia grown organic herbs, and Home Depot is donating vegetable and herb plants.

Event Details:

What: First Lady Maureen McDonnell to Host Community
Roots Event

When: 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 1, 2010

Where: Executive Mansion
Capitol Square
Richmond

All members of the press are encouraged to attend
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